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November 18, 2003   Contact: Kevin Hardy

Regents To Host Statewide "e-Learning Retreat"

The Louisiana Board of Regents will host a statewide electronic learning retreat November 20-21 at Camp Grant Walker, in Pollock, LA (near Alexandria). Campus administrators, faculty and information technology staff from Louisiana public college campuses across the state will attend the comprehensive retreat, which will take up a broad spectrum of inter-related learning technology and electronic course delivery issues.

One of the primary events at the retreat will be a two-day workshop for campus personnel involved in the implementation Louisiana's "Voice over Internet Protocol" (VoIP) project. The proposed VoIP program would provide voice communication on internet-connected computers as an economical alternative to long-distance telephone communication. VoIP has important implications as well for electronic distance learning.

"The idea is to get the folks together who'll be working to make the VoIP project a success," said Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology and retreat organizer. "The better they know and understand each other as a result of training together, the smoother the project is likely to go."

Concurrent with the VoIP training on Thursday will be two additional learning technology-related meetings: First, representatives of the Southern Regional Electronic Campus (SREC), an integrated network of all the electronically-delivered courses and degree programs in sixteen southeastern states, will meet to work out the final details of a merger of Louisiana's Board of Regents Electronic Campus (BOREC) with the SREC. The merger will allow Louisiana students to supplement Louisiana's more than 700 electronically-delivered courses with courses from colleges and universities across the south.

"The merger with SREC is an important step toward full electronic articulation between and among SREB states. Such across-the-board knowledge of the courses and degrees offered by the sixteen states will provide the citizens of Louisiana with otherwise unavailable educational opportunites. There are quite a few obstacles, but we are intent upon finding them, isolating, them and turning them into stepping stones for our citizens." said Mike Abbiatti.

Later in the day, representatives of the state's Electronic Learning Committee (a subcommittee of the state's Council of Chief Academic Officers) and the Student Distance Learning Services committee (which represents campus service entities such as libraries, registrars, financial aid,

enrollment management, etc.) will meet to discuss campus policy issues related to technology. Among the issues on the agenda for that meeting are the policy

<div align="center">(More)</div>

implications of future VoIP projects, the BOREC/SREC merger, and a financial aid pilot specifically for e-learners.

"These days educational technology and electronic course delivery are vital to student access to postsecondary education," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "Louisiana's electronic campus is already a model system, and these meetings will help ensure that we're maximizing the benefits of our technological resources for Louisiana's students."

An agenda for the two-day Electronic Learning Retreat follows below:

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AGENDA

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Thursday, November 20, 2003

9:30 a.m. –	VoIP Training
	SREC meeting
12:00 noon –	**LUNCH** for all; SREC Coordinators depart
	ELC/SDLS members arrive for 1:00 p.m. meeting

1:00 p.m. – VoIP Training continues
 - ELC/SDLS replaces SREC Coordinators

5:00 p.m. – Dinner for VoIP Coordinators/BoR staff

6:00 p.m. – Social Time

Friday, November 21, 2003

8:00 a.m. -	Breakfast for VoIP Coordinators/BoR staff
9:00 a.m. -	VoIP training continues
12:00 noon -	**LUNCH**
1:00 p.m. -	VoIP Training continues

<div align="center">*The Board of Regents is an Equal Opportunity and ADA Employer*</div>

Regents e-Learning Retreat
ADD ONE

4:00 p.m. -   VoIP Training ends/departure for all

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